

Subject: Re: a Grass Planted at Westpoint Marina Elytrigia, not Paspalum

Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 2:03 PM

From: Ellen Miramontes <ellenm@bcdc.ca.gov>

To: Truman Mak <tmak@kevinstephensdesign.com>, Kevin Stephens <kstephens@kevinstephensdesign.com>

Cc: Mark Sanders <mark@westpointharbor.com>

Truman,

I believe we discussed there could be a sign near the entry indicating public shore parking ahead (Public shore parking sign with arrow) and then also have a sign within the parking lot area indicating public shore parking. Please go ahead and propose a plan that you believe would be effective and we may then review.

We likely will need to amend the permit in order to alter the condition that requires 15 parking signs so that it states these are not required now but may be needed in the future when parking demands increase. Thank you for checking in regarding the signage.

Regards,

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Ellen Miramontes
Bay Design Analyst
SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission
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415-352-3643
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On 3/20/12 10:19 AM, "Truman Mak" <tmak@kevinstephensdesign.com> wrote:

Ellen,

I wanted to confirm with you that the requested public parking signs can be reduced from 15 to 2, I think that was the number you gave me during the meeting. Thank you.

Truman Mak

On Mon, Mar 19, 2012 at 3:47 PM, Kevin Stephens
<kstephens@kevinstephensdesign.com> wrote:

Subject: FW: a Grass Planted at Westpoint Marina Elytrigia, not Paspalum

Date: Monday, March 19, 2012 3:41 PM

From: Ellen Miramontes <ellenm@bcdc.ca.gov>

To: Kevin Stephens <kstephens@kevinstephensdesign.com>, Truman Mak <tmak@kevinstephensdesign.com>

Cc: Mark Sanders <mark@westpointharbor.com>

Kevin and Truman,

When I was last on site, Mark Sanders explained to me that what he had previously thought to be Seashore Paspalum was in fact not that but rather "tall oats." You will see in the email below, Peter Baye's confirmation of this. It is also interesting to note Peter's suggested use of *Leymus triticoides*. I thought this information would be of interest to you.

Regards,

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Ellen Miramontes

Bay Design Analyst

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----- Forwarded Message

From: baye <baye@earthlink.net>

To: Ellen Miramontes <ellenm@bcdc.ca.gov>

Subject: a Grass Planted at Westpoint Marina Elytrigia, not Paspalum

Ellen, the Westpoint Marina grass in the photo appears to be *Elytrigia pontica*, not *Paspalum*. *E. pontica* is a Russian wheatgrass that is dominant on some of the levees in Palo Alto due to past plantings. It is also invasive in subsaline soils, and used to be planted on levees around the bay for erosion control. It's locally abundant and invasive at Corte Madera, Mare Island, and Palo Alto, and turns up in Suisun Marsh. This planting seems to be suffering from more than drought or salinity; it is normally evergreen! I know the new levees at Westpoint Marina have a lot of acid sulfate accumulated from oxidation of sulfidic deep muds. This is typical of that soil problem, which usually diminishes after about 4-5 years. It can be treated with lime.

There is a perfectly suitable and superior (horticulturally and ecologically) native alternative to Russian

wheatgrass that provides superior esthetics, erosion control, and year-round green cover that spreads by itself and forms tough, erosion-resistant, low-maintenance sods: creeping wildrye, *Leymus triticoides*. It takes a few years to form a continuous sod, and can be oversown with temporary cover grasses that are already ubiquitously naturalized along the bay edge (though non-native), like inexpensive ryegrass (*Lolium*, similar in appearance to *Elytrigia*). (Note: that pragmatic adaptation for ornamental horticulture will not likely be recommended by restoration practitioners or exotic plant control advisors, but it may be considered “harm reduction” where the alternative is an existing stand of *Elytrigia*! No *Lolium* invasions will be fueled by a temporary cover crop at the marina; *Lolium* invasion is not seed-limited in S Bay.) When vigorous, closed stands are mature, *Leymus* can outcompete nearly all of the typical weeds of S Bay levees.

Local *Leymus* sources are best, but there are silvery-leaved forms from the N Bay and Suisun that can be used as ornamentals in situations like this, as a less damaging alternative to plants like *Elytrigia*. Creeping wildrye is also tolerant of acid sulfate soils – it was the first plant to recover on Marin Audubon’s acid sulfate-affected new levee at Petaluma Marsh Expansion Project. If the owners are dissatisfied with the dead-straw appearance of their planting, I would recommend liming, removing Russian wheatgrass, and replanting with plugs of creeping wildrye. The Watershed Nursery in Richmond is growing it in bulk, and there may be some native plant nurseries in the south bay that have it.